

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 8-16, and 19 are currently active in this case. Claims 3-7, 17, and 18 have been canceled, and Claims 1, 2, 12, 15, and 16 have been amended by the current amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a); Claims 7 and 16-18 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1); Claims 1-3 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,136,179 to Ohara; Claims 1, 4, 6, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0041386 to Suzuki et al.; Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,016,066 to Otake; Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,127,669 to Sidiropoulos; Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,584,539 to James et al.; Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohara in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,804,022 to Fujiwara et al.; Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohara in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0011805 to Yacoub; Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,597,783 to Tada et al.; and Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Suzuki et al. and Tada et al. in view Sidiropoulos.

In response to the objection to the specification, the specification has been amended as recommended in the Office Action. No further objection to the specification is therefore anticipated.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended so as not to recite a plurality of scanners. Consequently, the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) is moot.

Claims 7 and 18 have been canceled; therefore, the objection to those claims under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(b)(1) is moot.

Claim 16 has been amended to clarify that the server includes a scanner engine. The recitation of “a plurality of scanners” has been deleted. Consequently, the objection to Claim 16 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1) is moot.

The objection to Claim 5 is also moot because that claim has been canceled. Finally, Claim 12 has been amended as recommended in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, no further objections to the claims are anticipated.

The present invention (Claim 1 as amended) is directed to an image processing multifunction system including a plurality of printers and a server integrated with a scanner. The scanner is configured to acquire image data of a document and the server is configured to send the image data acquired by the scanner to one of the printers for printing. Claim 16 is directed to a server including, among other things, a scanner engine configured to acquire image data of a document; and an operation unit configured such that scanning can be conducted by operating the operation unit alone. Finally, independent Claim 19 is directed to a scanner including an interface connected to a server. The server is connected with a network and a plurality of printers, and the scanner is connected to the network only through the server. When in a copying mode, the scanner reads image data from a document via the scanner engine by operating the operation unit alone, and supplies the image data to one of the printers via the server.

In contrast to the present invention, Ohara discloses a printing system wherein scanners, printers, and client computers are connected via a printing management server 1. However, Ohara fails to teach or suggest a printing system wherein the scanner is integrated with a server. Consequently Ohara is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by Claim 1.

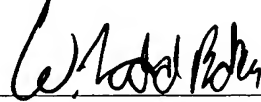
Regarding Claim 16, Suzuki et al. disclose a server including a communications control unit 14g connected to network 10. However, Suzuki et al. fails to teach or suggest a server including a scanner engine configured to acquire image data of a document. Further, Suzuki et al. fail to teach or suggest an operation unit configured such that scanning can be conducted by operating the operation unit alone. Tada et al. disclose a server including a plurality of network interfaces. However, Tada et al. fail to teach or suggest the scanner engine feature of the server defined by Claim 16. Tada et al. also fail to remedy the deficiency of Suzuki et al. regarding the operation unit feature of the present invention. Consequently, Suzuki et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by Claim 16 when considered alone or in combination with Tada et al.

Regarding Claim 19, Suzuki et al. illustrate in Figure 1 a scanner 12 connected to a network 10. However, Suzuki et al. fail to teach or suggest that the scanner is connected to the network only through the server 14. Consequently, Suzuki et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by Claim 19.

In view of the foregoing, no further issues are believed to remain. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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